

The cross-platform system-fault warning system 100 is capable of detecting whether any one of a plurality of server platforms (11, ..., 18) has an abnormal operating condition, generating a warning message, and transferring it via a network system 200 to all network administrators' and users' workstations 300 (see specification at page 4, lines 4-10; FIG. 1). The system 100 includes a plurality of fault detection modules (111, ..., 118), a warning-message database 120, and a warning-message sender 130.

Each of the detection modules (e.g., 111) is integrated into one of the servers (e.g., 11) for detecting an abnormal operating condition, and in the event of such condition, generates and transfers by file transfer protocol (FTP) a text-based system-fault indicating file to the warning-message database 120 (see specification at page 4, lines 17-26). The warning-message database 120 stores a mapping table of warning messages corresponding to system-fault indicating files (see page 5, lines 10-11). Next, the corresponding warning message is retrieved from the warning-message database 120 and transferred to the warning-message sender 130 (see page 5, lines 14-18). The warning message is then transferred via a network system to different workstations to inform network administrators and users (see page 5, lines 22-25).

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,708,775 to Nakamura in view of U.S. Patent 6,622,266 to Goddard et al. (hereinafter "Goddard"), and further in view U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0061007 to Sigl. Claims 2, 5, and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above combination, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,658,586 to Levi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, Nakamura was cited for teaching "continually detecting whether any one of the server platforms has an abnormal operating condition..." However, as indicated in the Office Action, Nakamura does not teach or suggest "transferring the warning message retrieved from the warning-message database via the network system to the

workstations" (Office Action, page 2). Goddard was cited at column 4, lines 56-63 for disclosing this limitation.

Goddard relates to a method for specifying printer alert processing, which is intended to improve the efficiency of alert notifications for multiple printers in an enterprise (see column 1, lines 34-39). As shown in FIG. 1, a plurality of printers 106, 108, 110, 112, and 114 are connected to an enterprise network 104 (see column 2, lines 62-65). As disclosed in column 4, lines 56-63, when an error or alert condition is detected for one of the printers, a printer management utility 204 transmits alert notifications to an email server 218, which forwards the alert notifications to the appropriate user unit 116, 120, or 124.

However, Goddard cannot be combined with Nakamura in the manner suggested in the Office Action. Goddard relates to printer alert processing for a plurality of printers in a network, which is non-analogous to the plurality of server units disclosed in Nakamura. In other words, the errors that would occur in printers (such as "low toner or paper jams", column 1, line 19 of Goddard) are not relevant to the servers of Nakamura.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to a network of printers, as taught in Goddard, to resolve a problem of transferring a warning message involving an abnormal operating condition of a server. Moreover, even if Nakamura is somehow combined with Goddard, there is no teaching or suggestion of "a warning-message database" in either reference, and thus there would be no basis for "transferring the warning message" as stated on page 2 of the Office Action.

On page 3 of the Office Action, Sigl was cited to remedy deficiencies regarding the combination of Nakamura in view of Goddard. Sigl relates to a method for identifying error conditions of machines in an automation system. However, the errors identified in Sigl are machine errors that would never occur in computer-based server platforms. Therefore, Sigl is

non-analogous to Nakamura, and the proposed combination is based only on improper hindsight reasoning garnered from the Applicant's specification.

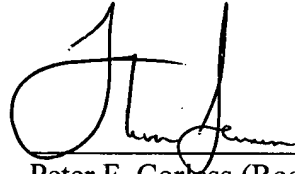
Even if the combination of Nakamura in view of Goddard were somehow further modified by Sigl, as proposed in the Office Action, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest a "text-based system-fault indicating file" as recited in claims 1, 4, and 7. For example, in Nakamura, various faults detected by the server unit are assigned with sequence numbers. The sequence numbers in Nakamura (see, e.g., column 4, lines 57-62) do not constitute text-based system-fault indicating files.

Therefore, claims 1, 4, and 7 are patentable over the proposed combination of Nakamura in view of Goddard, and further in view of Sigl. Accordingly, the respective dependent claims also are patentable over the proposed combination.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2, 5, and 8, Levi was cited for teaching transferring the text-based system-fault indicating file via FTP. However, column 9, lines 6-9 (cited in the Office Action) merely states that a file is downloaded via FTP from a server. There is no teaching or suggestion that the file is "transferred" from the fault detection module to the warning-message database, as recited in the Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, even if Levi were somehow combined with Nakamura in view of Goddard, and further in view of Sigl, it would still fail to teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter F. Corless', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: September 23, 2004

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